

## ABSTRACT

1        A pay-per-use (PPU) software system uses reads metrics data from one or more  
2    PPU products and transmits the metrics data to a remote location for processing. The PPU  
3    system uses a utility metering appliance that monitors PPU software products on a given  
4    internal network through the use of software metering agents that reside on different  
5    computers. Metric gathering tools are supplied with the PPU software products and are  
6    registered with an agent. The utility metering appliance polls all of the software metering  
7    agents, which collect software metrics data from the registered tools. Each agent  
8    transmits the data back to the utility metering appliance, where it is stored for periodic  
9    transmission to a usage collection and billing system. The usage collection and billing  
10   system then forwards the metrics data to a billing computer so that a bill can be issued to  
11   the software product user. The software metrics data may also be forwarded to a portal  
12   for customer tracking of PPU product usage.